

# Regional Development News & Notes



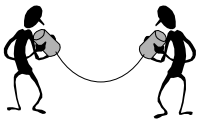
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## Broadband-Access Grants



The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) of USDA has announced a pilot program for the provision of broadband transmission service in rural America. **\$20M in FY'02** is available through national competition to "community-oriented connectivity" proposals for deployment of broadband transmission services to rural schools, libraries, education centers, health care providers, law enforcement agencies, public safety organizations as well as residents and businesses.

- **Application deadline:** November 5, 2002.
- **Eligible applicants:** Multiple, including nonprofits.
- **Required match:** 15%
- **Info:** Roberta Purcell, RUS, 202-720-9554.
- **Web:** [www.usda.gov/rus/telecom/index.htm](http://www.usda.gov/rus/telecom/index.htm)

## CDBG Economic Development Funds *UPDATE*

After action taken by the CDBG Advisory Committee on July 9<sup>th</sup>, approximately **\$850,000** in NH-CDBG Economic Development funds remains available for calendar year 2002.

Grants approved on July 9<sup>th</sup> include:

- Rockingham County/SBAC/Port City Aircraft Repair: \$380,000.
- Keene/MEDC/White Mtn. Baking Co.: \$270,000.
- Merrimack County/Belknap-Merrimack CAP Day Care: \$370,000.
- Littleton/GCEDC/Riverglen House: \$40,000.



## Economic Development and Open Space

Economic development and open space need not be mutually exclusive components of an overall municipal or regional strategy. In addition to the benefits of cleaner air, groundwater recharge, stress relief, recreation and visual beauty, a number of studies show that parks and open space increase surrounding property values. This means higher tax revenues!

Similarly, greenspace and parks aid economic development by attracting businesses, visitors and residents who choose to occupy an area and spend considerable sums of money.



## Unemployment in NH

Here are the latest Unemployment numbers from NH Employment Security:

	May '02 Preliminary	Apr. '02 revised	May '01
<b>Belknap</b>	3.2%	3.6%	2.5%
<b>Carroll</b>	3.0%	3.9%	3.1%
<b>Cheshire</b>	3.1%	3.3%	3.1%
<b>Coos</b>	8.0%	8.9%	6.8%
<b>Grafton</b>	2.6%	2.4%	2.6%
<b>Hillsborough</b>	4.6%	4.8%	2.9%
<b>Merrimack</b>	2.6%	2.7%	2.4%
<b>Rockingham</b>	5.1%	5.0%	3.4%
<b>Strafford</b>	3.4%	3.8%	2.6%
<b>Sullivan</b>	1.9%	2.4%	2.5%

## CDBG “101”



### # 4: Sub-Recipient Agreements and Citizen Participation

(see CDBG Implementation Guide for more information)

The Grantee/Sub-Recipient relationship is an important one in the CDBG process. It should be noted that the Grantee **does not reduce** its responsibilities by utilizing a Sub-Recipient to carry out project activities. In fact, many activities **cannot** be undertaken by anyone but the Grantee (i.e. environmental determinations and requesting funds from OSP).

Before OSP will release any funds to support Sub-Recipient activities, it must have received and approved a contract between the Grantee and the Sub-Recipient. The grant agreement between OSP and the municipality will contain explicit provisions regarding the **Sub-Recipient agreement**. This agreement must contain the following provisions:

- Scope of Work
- Records and Reporting
- Program Income (if applicable)

Continued ►

### Did You Know?

(things to ponder, or not, when solving the economic development needs of NH)



The seeds of giant redwood trees are so small that 123,000 of them weigh scarcely a pound. (Lesson: From small beginnings come BIG results!)



- Administrative Requirements
- Program Requirements
- Suspension and Termination
- Reversion of Assets
- Cessation of the Sub-Recipient

### Citizen Participation

The Grantee is required to conduct at least one public hearing during the implementation phase of the project, the purpose of which is to advise citizens of progress on the project. Requirements include:

- Minimum 10-day notice, not including the date of notice or posting (whichever is later) or the day of the hearing.
- Publication of notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the municipality, and posting in at least 3 public places within the municipality.
- Holding hearing at a location convenient to low and moderate income persons who are affected by the project.
- Conducting the meeting in a manner that accommodates the handicapped and non-English speaking residents.
- Providing citizens with alternate methods of submitting complaints and grievances.
- Providing written responses to written complaints and grievances within 15 working days, where practicable.

The Grantee must take thorough minutes of the hearing. The project files must contain:

- Minutes of the hearing
- An attendance roster
- Written complaints (if any)
- Responses to those complaints
- A copy of the legal notice, with a notation of where and when the 3 notices were posted
- Proof of publication from the newspaper